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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,794	08/02/2001	John F. Broker	BRO009-162	4309
7590 Whirlpool Patents Company -MD 0750 500 Renaissance Drive Suite 102 St. Joseph, MI 49085			EXAMINER HAILU, TADESSE	
			ART UNIT 2173	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/17/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,794

Applicant(s)

BROKER ET AL.

Examiner

TADEESE HAILU

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- 7) ☐ Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed /entered on April 8, 2008.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed April 8, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues states and argues as follows:

The present invention provides for enlarging zone 18 to encompass the entire display 10 as represented in screen 300. At the same time, an additional layer of information is added to the first set of information that was in zone 18 of the display, with the additional information giving further details as to the first layer of information. None of the applied prior art performs a corresponding method.

The examiner disagrees:

Kimoto et al (US Pat. No. 5, 390,005), Nakano et al (US Pat. No. 5,708,787) and the newly applied reference, Launey et al (US Pat. No. 5,086,385), each discloses the above argued subject matter. For example, Kimoto discloses a screen with main menu items (FIG. 2), wherein if one of the main menu items (e.g., LENS MODE 21) is selected, the selected item (21) and the sub-menus (e.g., at least PRESET 1-9) of the selected item (21) will encompass the entire display (see FIG. 3),

Nakano, similarly, discloses a screen (FIG. 3) with main menu items (FIG. 3, MENU 0), wherein if one of the main menu items (e.g., ITEM NAME B) is selected, the selected item and the sub-menus (e.g., ITEM NAME BA, BB & BC – see MENU 2 – FIG. 3) of the selected item (e.g., ITEM NAME B) will encompass the entire display (see FIG. 3).

Launey also discloses a screen with main menu items (FIG. 3A), wherein if one of the main menu items (e.g., AUDIO/VIDEO) is selected, the selected item (i.e., AUDIO/VIDEO) and the sub-menus (e.g., VCR, TELEVISION, etc, see FIG. 3B) of the selected item (i.e., AUDIO/VIDEO) will encompass the entire display (see FIG. 3B).

Thus, as disclosed in each of the applied prior art, the second set of information (selectable sub-menu items) joins the first set of information (main menu items) in the enlarged zone (at shown above), such that both the first and second sets of information substantially, entirely encompass the screen as required in the independent claims.

The applicant also argues about the screens shown in Kimoto et al include do not show "a first set of information" displayed in "one of a plurality of zones" as claimed. Instead, Kimoto et al. simply shows a screen providing operating options to a user and, upon selecting one of the available options, a subsequent selection screen is provided to present additional operating options to the user.

The examiner disagrees. As described in the disclosure of the invention, said first set of information are noting more than selectable item menus or available options that help a user to interact with the appliance, wherein said first or second set of information are arranged (zone) in the screen display the appliance.

Furthermore, the claimed "a plurality of zones" is directly read from the applied art to mean screen regions holding selectable menu items available options that help a user to interact with the appliance.

The Applicant also disagrees with this interpretation or equating the help option/button shown in the figures of Kimoto et al. with the claimed "diagnostic code". In contrast to the applicant's argument as illustrated in the applicant's disclosure (Figs.1-2) the "help" in main menu includes "diagnostic" sub-menu. Thus, interpreting help option menu to diagnostic sub-menu of Kimoto is appropriate.

Having fully addressed the applicant's arguments, the rejection is maintained and it is FINAL.

The Invention (overview):

The present invention is directed to a display system for an appliance incorporating an electronic interface screen, wherein the display screen can be used to present a wide range of information concerning operational, diagnostic and other data concerning the appliance.

3. The pending claims 1-20 are examined and rejected herein as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimoto et al (US Pat. No. 5, 390,005).

Kimoto discloses a method of indicating a setting screen of an image forming machine on which a touch-panel is displayed, wherein automatic setting conditions and a manual mode button are displayed on an initial screen; and when a touch operation is conducted on the manual mode button, a manual setting screen is indicated and an operating condition can be manually set by a touch operation on the manual setting screen.

Similar to the claimed invention, Kimoto discloses a method of conveying information on a display screen of an appliance (image forming apparatus, e.g., copying machine)

The method of Kimoto includes dividing the screen into a plurality of selectable regions (zones) (e.g., see any one of Figs. 1 through 22).

Kimoto also discloses displaying a first set of information in one of the plurality of selectable zones (e.g. a first set of information could be set of information located or represented in the top region, middle or bottom region as shown in the initial screen of Fig. 2, for example).

Kimoto also discloses selecting one of the region information or button command will display associated lower level sub menus (second set of information), wherein such lower level menus will substantially encompass the entire screen. For example, when the lens mode button 21 is pressed on the initial screen shown in FIG. 2, magnification-selection screen in FIG. 3 is displayed. As shown in Fig. 3, when lens mode is selected, the associated additional information or lower level sub menu substantially encompasses the entire screen (see the selected item from region of Figs. 2, as shown

enlarged in Fig. 3, column 5, lines 27-29). Similarly when copy size button 24 is pressed on the initial screen in FIG. 2, tray-selection screen in FIG. 5 is displayed, substantially encompassing the entire screen (Figs. 2, and 5, column 5, lines 62-64). Again, as required by claim 1, Kimoto discloses displaying a first set of information in one of the plurality of selectable zones (**For example, LENS MODE 21**); and causing said one of the plurality of selectable zones (for example, **selecting LENS MODE 21**) to become enlarged, while automatically presenting a second set of information (for example, see at least **PRESET 1-PRESET 9 , FIG. 3**) with the First set of reformation (for example, **select magnification (i.e., for the lens mode 21)**, the second set of information (for example, see at least **PRESET 1-PRESET 9 , FIG. 3**), representing additional details (i.e., **additional details for the selected higher level menu - Lens mode/magnification**) concerning the first set of information on the screen, wherein said one of the plurality of selectable zones, including both the first and second set of information, substantially, entirely encompasses the screen (see **the selected higher level menu - Lens mode/magnification and sub menu – at least preset 1-9 are shown entirely encompasses the screen in Fig. 3**).

With regard to claim 2:

Kimoto, as shown in Figs. 2, discloses that the initial screen includes operation panel function or information, wherein the information includes operational parameters and other information and help mark (?) button (109) (help code).

With regard to claim 3:

Kimoto describes that when the help (?) mark (code) is selected, additional information (second set of information - lower level menu or sub-menu constitutes definitions of said diagnostic codes (see condition-setting check screen FIGS 17 AND 20, (column 7, lines 2-6, column 15, lines 43-48).

With regard to claim 4:

Kimoto, in the initial operational panel (Fig. 2), discloses initial screen (Fig. 2) includes help (?) code, to help diagnosis the target copy machine, such as how to clear the jammed paper, etc (column 7, lines 2-6).

With regard to claim 5:

Kimoto describes that the initial screen, Fig. 2, includes three main region in which two of the selectable regions are exactly equal sized (top and bottom regions), and the middle region is substantially similar the two regions (see at least Fig. 2). Thus, Kimoto illustrates that the initial screen is divided into three substantially equally sized regions as required in the claim.

With regard to claim 6:

Kimoto discloses several screen information (Fig.2-21) arranged in a hierarchical format. For example, when the lens mode button 21 is pressed on the initial screen shown in FIG. 2, magnification-selection screen (next or lower screen) in FIG. 3 is displayed (column 5, lines 27-29).

With regard to claim 7:

Kimoto discloses a touch screen, wherein touching the screen enlarges said one of the plurality of zones. For example, when the lens mode button 21 is pressed on the

initial screen shown in FIG. 2, magnification-selection screen (next or lower screen) of FIG. 3 is displayed, by taking the entire screen (enlarged) (column 5, lines 27-29).

With regard to claims 8-14:

These claims are related to method claims 1-7 respectively, thus, are rejected for reasons similar to those given for the rejections of claims 1-7.

With regard to claims 15-19:

Claims 15-19 correspond generally to claims 1-7, respectively, and recite similar features in an information display *system* form, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

5. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano et al (US Pat. No. 5,708,787).

Nakano relates to a menu display device which is to be installed in computers and domestic appliances that use display screens and which is used for the selection and setting of appliance functions by a user and for displaying menu items for selected data.

Similar to the claimed invention, Nakano teaches a method (e.g., Fig. 8) of conveying information on a display screen of an appliance (e.g., Fig. 8).

The method of Nakano also includes dividing the screen into a plurality of regions (or column regions) or zones of menu items (column 1, lines 6-11, e.g., Fig. 3).

The method of Nakano also includes displaying a first menu item (first set of information) on one of the plurality of regions (zones) (e.g., Fig. 3, displaying on the

initial screen (Menu 0) having *Item Name A*, *Item Name B*, *Item Name C*, or *Item Name D*).

The method of Nakano also includes selecting one of the items from the initial screen (Menu 0), will display the associated lower level sub menu items (second set of information), substantially encompassing the entire screen. For example, selecting *Item Name B* from the *initial screen (Menu 0)* will display the associated additional information or lower level sub menu 2 (*Fig. 3*) on the screen (column 6, lines 12-50).

6. Claim 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Launey et al (US Pat. No. 5,086,385)

Launey et al (Launey) discloses a system for and a method of providing an expandable home automation controller is disclosed which supports multiple numbers and multiple different types of data communications with both appliances and subsystems within the home as well as systems external to the home.

With regard to claim 1:

The method of Launey includes conveying information on a display screen of an appliance (e.g., entertainment devices) (see FIG. 3A shows the main menu touch screen display) comprising:

dividing the screen into a plurality of selectable zones (see for example, FIG. 3A, illustrates divided selectable regions/zones for holding the main menu items);

displaying a first set of information in one of the plurality of selectable zones (again as illustrated in FIG. 3A, the divided selectable regions/zones holding main menu items (a first set of information); and

causing said one of the plurality of selectable zones to become enlarged (for example, selecting one of the main menu item, such as AUDIO/VIDEO - FIG. 3B), while automatically presenting a second set of information (i.e., a plurality of sub-menus of the selected AUDIO/VIDEO main menu item) with the first set of information (AUDIO/VIDEO main menu item - see FIG. 3B, the second set of information (i.e., see a plurality of sub-menus of the selected AUDIO/VIDEO main menu item, FIG. 3B), representing additional details (i.e., additional information or sub-menus associate with AUDIO/VIDEO main menu item) concerning the first set of information on the screen, wherein said one of the plurality of selectable zones including both the first and second set of information, substantially entirely encompasses the screen (see both the main menu item- AUDIO/VIDEO and a plurality of sub-menus of the AUDIO/VIDEO are displayed in a single screen, substantially entirely encompasses the screen – FIG. 3B).

With regard to claims 8 and 15:

Claims 8 and 15 correspond generally to the method claim 1, and recite similar features in a method and system form, respectively, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eisenbrandt et al (5,818,428).

Nakano relates to a menu display device which is to be installed in computers and domestic appliance that use display screens and which is used for the selection and setting of appliance functions by a user and for displaying menu items for selected data (column 1, lines 6-11). Nakano however, does not explicitly mention that the domestic appliance as being laundry appliance. Eisenbrandt on the other hand discloses a control system with a user configurable interface, particularly suitable for use in connection with domestic appliance, for example a dryer (Abstract and Fig. 1).

Both Nakano and Eisenbrandt are directed to configuring and incorporating user input means or user interface to an appliance. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to configure the display screen of Nakano to be operational and compatible with Eisenbrandt' dryer/washer appliance. Since both Nakano and Eisenbrandt discuss configurable display screen, user configurability of the interface permits a user to customize the control system interface to suit that user's particular needs (column 3, lines 16-26). Therefore, it would have

been obvious to combine Nakano with Eisenbrandt to obtain the invention as specified in claim 20.

CONCLUSION

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and Figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed

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invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent application information retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private –PAIR or Public-PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private-PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please see pair-direct.uspto.gov web site. Should you have questions regarding access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:30 – 7:00 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow, can be reached at (571) 272-7767 Art Unit 2173.

/Tadesse Hailu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2173

6/12/08